

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02 PER-01 SY-05 DHA-02 AID-05 A-01

SCA-01 USSS-00 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 PC-01 SCCT-01 EB-07

/097 W

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P R 211205Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3453

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NI

SUBJECT: SITREP: NIGERIA RETURNING TO NORMAL

REF: LAGOS 2085

1. AFTER YESTERDAY'S COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES AND RALLIES,
LAGOS TODAY APPEARS RETURNING TO NORMAL, ON SURFACE AT LEAST.

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HOWEVER, RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC), STILL CONCERNED

ABOUT POSSIBLE TRIBAL/COMMUNAL DISTURBANCES IN NORTH, SENT NEW CHIEF OF STAFF SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, BRIGADIER SHEHY YAR'ADUA, TO KANO YESTERDAY TO DELIVER CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO EMIR AND ONCE MORE PUBLICLY STATE THAT MUHAMMED ASSASSINATION AND ATTEMPTED COUP HAD NO RELIGIOUS OR TRIBAL MOTIVATION.

2. CURFEW HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN LIFTED AND AIRPORT REMAINS CLOSED TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC FLIGHTS RESUMED TODAY AFTER SUSPENSION YESTER IN OBSERVANCE DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING. AT EARLIEST, IT APPEARS AIRPORT WILL NOT OPEN TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC UNTIL MONDAY-- IF THEN.

E. PRESS CONTINUES ITS EDITORIALIZING AGAINST U.S. INTRIGUE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND AGAINST ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN MURDER OF POLITICAL LEADERS IN AFRICA AND ASIA. "TRIBUNE" EDITORIAL TODAY SAID AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE LEARNED THEIR LESSON AFTER LONG LIST OF FAILURES IN HAVING CIA KILL LEADERS WHO WERE UNFRIENDLY TO UNITED STATES. IN TWO SEPARATE COLUMNS TODAY, "NEW NIGERIA" CONNECTS US UNHAPPINESS WITH MUHAMMED'S PRO-MPLA ANGOLA POLICY AND LATE NIGERIAN LEADER'S INTENTION TO FREE AFRICA FROM WESTERN IMPERIALISM WITH HIS ASSASSINATION.

4. COMMENT: NEXT QUESTION TO ANSWER, OF COURSE, IS THAT OF OBASANJO'S STAYING POWER. OVER COURSE NEXT FEW WEEKS WE MAY LEARN WHETHER THE HAUSAS IN THE NORTH AND IN THE ARMY WILL ACCEPT OBASANJO'S LEADERSHIP OR WHETHER THEY WILL INSIST ON A CHANGE, AND IF SO, WHO MIGHT EMERGE AS THE NORTHERN CHOICE. WE UNDERSTAND OBASANJO IS TO MAKE HIS OWN PILGRIMAGE TO KANO NEXT WEEK.
EASUM

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